

HOUSE RESOLUTION 200

By Eldridge

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Felix Raymond Dowsley.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Felix Raymond Dowsley; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dowsley was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on August 3, 1922, in Lutherville, Maryland, Felix Dowsley was the son of the late Felix R. and Ruth A. Dowsley; and

WHEREAS, a 1941 graduate of the McDonough Military School in Baltimore, Maryland, Mr. Dowsley nobly served his country as a member of the United States Army Air Corps, rendering sterling service in World War II as flight engineer and top-turret gunner on a B-17 bomber; and

WHEREAS, during his outstanding tenure with the United States Army Air Corps, he completed twenty-five missions over Europe and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, four Air Medals, and a Presidential Unit Citation for his meritorious service; and

WHEREAS, following his time abroad, Mr. Dowsley returned to the United States, where he stood as a gunnery instructor stationed at Dyersburg Air Base; and

WHEREAS, on June 8, 1946, Felix Dowsley was joined in holy matrimony to Martha Lynn Cole, and the new couple established their home in Humboldt; and

WHEREAS, a man of many talents, Mr. Dowsley founded the Felix R. Dowsley Insurance Agency in 1951 and became active in real estate sales and development; and

WHEREAS, a community leader of the highest caliber, he estimably served as President of the Chamber of Commerce, President of the West Tennessee Strawberry Festival, and President of the Humboldt Rotary Club; Mr. Dowsley also served as a director of the Merchants State Bank for twenty-five years, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades and awards for his many contributions to the Humboldt community, Felix Dowsley was selected as the Honoree for the West Tennessee Strawberry Festival of 1992; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dowsley was an active and devout member of the First Presbyterian Church in Humboldt, which he served faithfully for many years as an elder; and

WHEREAS, raised on the Chesapeake Bay, Felix Dowsley remained true to his love of the water, becoming an avid boater and fisherman on the Tennessee River; those who knew him remember his keen sense of humor and a twinkle that never left his eye; and

WHEREAS, Felix Dowsley was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of sixty-three years, Martha, his children, his many friends, and his loyal dogs; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife; one daughter, Susan Dowsley; two sons, J. Cole Dowsley and his wife, Connie, and Felix R. Dowsley III; seven grandchildren and their spouses, Catherine Payne and her husband, Jay; Clayton Cooper; J. Cole Dowsley, Jr., and his wife, Nicole; Joseph Dowsley and his wife, Sarah; Ashley Dowsley; Felix S. Dowsley; and Gray Dowsley; and five great-grandchildren, Davis Payne, Caldwell Payne, Collins Payne, Forrest Payne, and Miles Dowsley; and

WHEREAS, Felix Dowsley leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby
honor the memory of Felix Raymond Dowsley, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character
and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences
to the family and many friends of Mr. Dowsley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared
for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.